

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Hearing on Minimum Standards
Minutes of the September 9, 2013 Meeting

Judy McGann, Superintendent of Schools for SAU #68 (Lincoln-Woodstock School District) welcomed Board members and Department staff to the district. Students in the Fifth Grade greeted Board members and Department staff when we arrived at the school.

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The State Board of Education meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Woodstock Elementary School in Lincoln, NH. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Cindy C. Chagnon, Gary W. Groleau, Helen G. Honorow, Gregory Odell, Emma Rous, and James C. Schubert. Also in attendance were Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, and Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Students in the Fifth Grade said the pledge of allegiance led by Daytona and Max.

Chairman Raffio said he and Board members were pleased to be here at the school.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Update on Charter Schools – Chairman Raffio said that four new charter schools have recently been approved by the State Board. There are now twenty-two charter schools approved and eighteen up and running. At the October 31st Board Retreat the strategic future of charter schools will be discussed. Board members will be looking ahead as to what Governor Hassan would like with regard to charter schools.

B.

C. Update on NH Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Waiver – Commissioner Barry said the Department is working with the priority and focus schools. They each will be having a data coach who will be working with the school leadership team.

D. Update on Manchester School District – Commissioner Barry said that every other week the Department is meeting with Deb Livingston, Paul Leather and Department members to discuss priority and focus schools and the use of data. These have been very positive meetings. Heather Gage, Chief of Staff for the Department, met with district staff to address common core standards. Mayor Gatsas has reinforced that the Manchester School District will not use common core assessment and will select standards to best meet the needs in that district. Deputy Commissioner Leather said they are carefully reviewing class size issues and the lawsuit with Hooksett has been settled. Additional students will move to other high schools. They are working on a plan for the dropout rate to be submitted by October 1st. Helen Honorow would like information on class size for the new school year but this will take a month or two into this new school year.

The October 4th Commissioner's Meeting with Superintendents will be on Smarter Balanced Standards.

E. Update on Unity – Judy Fillion and Jeff Blaney were present to meet with the Board. No one from SAU #6 was in attendance at this meeting. Mr. Blaney reported that the relocation plan seems to be going smoothly and there are no complaints with the plan. It is now two months into the shutdown. Some of the proposed classrooms located on the lower level did not meet the square footage requirements in the Ed 321 rules. When this issue was originally discussed with the SAU it was their intent to request a waiver of the administrative rule. After further deliberation, the Unity School Board decided to reconfigure the classrooms to add space to meet the square foot requirement.

Chairman Raffio read the following statement: Constituents have asked the State Board of Education whether work performed by Scott Vaughn on the Unity school construction project must be protected by a performance bond under state law. As a preliminary matter, the current stop-work order on the project is unrelated to bonding. The Department of Education, the Board, and the State Fire Marshal's Office are working with School Administrative Unit #6 and their architect to resolve the issue which resulted in the issuance of the stop-work order. RSA 447:16 requires a payment bond when a person contracts on behalf of any subdivision of the state, including an SAU, for the construction of a public building for more than \$35,000. The bond provides security for payment to all contracts and subcontractors for, among other things, all labor performed, equipment hired, and materials used. Performance bonds, on the other hand,

are not required by law. Typically, the school district/SAU contracts with a general contractor (principal) who is required to purchase the bond to cover an amount equal to at least 100 percent of the contract price. SAU #6, however, did not enter into such contract for the construction of its school. Instead, it entered into a contract with Scott Vaughn to act as an architect and consultant. Payment bonds are not required for such a contract. In the absence of a general contractor, SAU #6 contracted directly with “subcontractors” and material providers. The Department has received assurances from the SAU that these contracts are covered by both payment and performance bonds with one exception. The SAU has been paying Third Dimension, a company owned by Scott Vaughn, to provide labor on a variety of projects. This work has been done without a written contract or payment bond. To the extent such work amounts to \$35,000, SAU #6 must require Vaughn to provide sufficient security as certification that there are no outstanding payments due on the project.

Chairman Raffio said that he wanted someone from SAU #6 to attend all State Board meetings and to make this perfectly clear to Superintendent McGoodwin.

F. Board Retreat – Chairman Raffio said the Board Retreat will be October 31st at Two Delta Dental. Several items to be discussed are Strategic Plan for Charter Schools, Minimum Standards, Common Core Standards, Manchester school system, Unity and Helen’s item on the vision of the Board.

Chairman Raffio said the Business and Education Coalition will be meeting on September 20th. There are business leaders, educators, political leaders and public policy experts on the Coalition. The Chairman said he had met with Governor Hassan and a Blue Ribbon Committee on STEM may be organized and this Coalition could feed into this Committee.

Chairman Raffio said that there is a Common Core meeting scheduled for September 17th at the Institute on Politics and the slant on Common Core is not overly positive.

Helen Honorow said that being here and seeing students is what it is all about. Commissioner Barry and Commissioner Toumpas from the Department of Health and Human Services met at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic recently to discuss Project SEARCH. They are working with people with developmental disabilities and she understands that four graduates are working at Dartmouth. They are working on ways in which college and career readiness can be for everyone. Commissioner Barry will follow up with other agencies in the Nashua area.

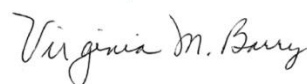
AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Lin-Wood School District – Judy McGann, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed Board members and Department staff to the Lin-Wood School District. There are 344 students in grades K-12. Carol Smith, Librarian and Media Specialist, gave a power point presentation along with help from Russ Bradshaw and Shaun Hagan. Ms. McGann introduced Matt Manning, Chairman of the Board. The Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District Technology Curriculum is designed to promote Lin-Wood's 21st century learning expectations involving self-directed learning, critical thinking, effective communication, collaboration, as well as caring and responsible citizenship using an integrated approach. These expectations are necessary for all individuals to compete in the ever-changing global economy. The curriculum will enhance students' conceptual understanding, procedural knowledge, and problem solving skills with technology and develop knowledge of ethical, responsible use of technology tools in a society that relies heavily on knowledge of information in its decision-making, including the impact of social, ethical, and human aspects.

B. Public Hearing on Ed 306 Minimum Standards – Chairman Raffio opened the Public Hearing on Ed 306 Minimum Standards at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Raffio said that the Board is to simply listen to the testimony, and take notes. There would be no comments by Board members. Testimony will be limited to five minutes. It is anticipated that the standards will be voted on at the November 21st meeting in Merrimack. These rules provide the minimum standards for public school approval. Ed 306 is being readopted with amendments. Most of it is scheduled to expire July 1, 2013, subject to extensions pursuant to RSA 541-A:14-a. The changes to the rules include changing requirements of credits from seat time to competencies, with respect to the ESEA flexibility waiver, college and career reading standards, and revising the school approval process. Also several new definitions have been added including credit, competencies and college and career readiness. The following people presented testimony: Nancy McIver, Carl Ladd, Jennifer Opalinski, John Freeman, Mollie White, Alan Parady, Ursula Askins-Huber, Bonnie Dunham for Parent Information Center and self, Fred Bramante, Bruce Labs. Chairman Raffio closed the hearing at 11:20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing on minimum standards adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Secretary